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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

July 17, 2009



MCCHORD PROUD TO HOST AMC RODEO 2009

*A stampede of competition, collaboration
and cowboy-spirit hosted by the Airmen
of the Pacific Northwest.*

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New Air Force policy streamlines redundant and outdated ancillary training programs and aligns expeditionary skills training with war-fighter requirements. Air Force leaders are also addressing the time requirement to complete ancillary training, after discovering a common misperception existed among Airmen that all ancillary training can be accomplished in 90 minutes.

Air Force leadership initially set the bar high: 90 minutes per member, per year for annual Total Force Awareness Training requirements. However,

deploying Airmen to a combat zone requires extensive pre-deployment training; thus expeditionary skills training never fell into the 90-minute standard.

Key points of recent AF/A1 policy:

- To prevent unconstrained growth in the Air Force's ancillary training program, the A1 community recently established "gatekeeper" bodies to vet emerging requirements and ensure senior leader oversight.

- The Air Force Learning Committee and the Expeditionary Skills Senior Review Group have been designated the gatekeepers for ancillary and expe-

ditionary skills training, respectively.

- A gatekeeper process ensures senior leadership has full situational awareness on training requirements, and allows for establishment of priorities, setting limits and communicating results.

- Ancillary training that is no longer required or combined with other courses includes Constitution Day training, crime prevention, family care plan brief, local area survival training, equal opportunity for supervisors of civilians, and initial security orientation—"un-cleared" version.

"Our primary goal is to eliminate

redundancy in our ancillary training to provide Airmen much-needed time to focus on their primary and expeditionary missions," said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "We're going to do that by taking a realistic approach with required training in the future."

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

Team McChord – let's 'bring it on' for Rodeo

By

Col. Michael Hornitschek

62nd Airlift Wing vice commander

If Rodeo excitement has not yet hit you, I'd say you've either been on a temporary duty assignment, on leave, or hiding in a cave for the last two weeks!

Ladies and gentlemen, McChord Air Force Base is THE privileged host of THE premier international air mobility competition on the face of the planet. The simple fact is that the Secretary of the Air Force, United States Transportation Com-

mand commander, Air Mobility Command commander, hundreds of other distinguished visitors, thousands of guests and cameras, and dozens of teams from around the world have already started descending on our home, making AMC Rodeo 2009 a unique opportunity for Team McChord to showcase what "Airlift Excellence ... Right Here ... Right Now!" is all about.

Team McChord has been preparing for this event for over a year and every McChord Airman should take great pride in our base, our personal appearance, our customs and courtesies, and our ability to make this a positively memorable experience for all who attend. To that end, you are all 24/7

ambassadors and the eyes and ears of 62nd and 446th Airlift Wing leadership — we are all in! We know that we can count on you to pay attention to every detail, to keep the base spotless, to assist any guest or Team McChord member in need, and in the simplest of terms, to elevate the already outstanding reputation this base enjoys. That reputation is YOUR reputation — we all contribute to it, and we all share it.

We've got the skill, we've got the attitude, and we've got the opportunity — I predict that on July 25 after the last team leaves, we will all say, "That was THE best Rodeo ever!" Let's make it happen, Team McChord — let's bring it on!

The Sharp Airman ...

Knows when to say "Thanks" and to do it publicly.

I want to say "Thank You" to all the Airmen (active duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian) that have worked so hard these past few months to

make Rodeo 2009 a success.

The competitors and observers are arriving and rave reviews are already pouring in. Your hard work and dedication have ensured that McChord will continue to be recognized as the showcase base in Air Mobility Command. I salute you all!

— *Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger,*
62nd Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant

Don't miss it ...

Rodeo opening ceremonies 9 a.m. Sunday at the base of the control tower. *Good luck to all Rodeo competitors!*

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

8th Airlift Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Seth Hillman

Duty Title:

C-17 Globemaster III instructor loadmaster

Duty section:

8th AS resource element

Hometown:

Bristol, Tenn.

Why he's super:

Sergeant Hillman is a dedicated and hard working NCO who steps up to any challenge. He was the NCOIC for wing training, where he monitored all wing loadmaster training events for more than 160 crewmembers. Since returning to the squadron, he has taken on the role of resource advisor and is responsible for the squadron budget. He recently graduated from the NCO academy and is waiting to go to airdrop school. As part of his continuing effort to improve as a professional and an NCO, Sergeant Hillman recently completed his bachelor's degree in business management.



Senior Airman Toby Christensen

Duty Title:

C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster

Duty section:

8th AS scheduler

Hometown:

Kent, Wash.

Why he's tops:

Airman Christensen is a dedicated and hard working Airman who excels in all challenges. He is one of four loadmaster schedulers, responsible for tracking aircraft currency and schedules for all 45 of the squadron's loadmasters for worldwide airlift missions. He was recently selected to attend a workshop in Long Beach, Calif., to help Boeing validate solutions to logistic lock problems currently facing the C-17. As a result of this workshop, all of the logistic locks will be modified removing the additional restraint requirements for pallets and ensuring more efficient loading operations.



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AMC Rodeo 2009 set to kickoff Sunday

By

Laura McAndrews
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Three of the remaining nine Doolittle Raiders will attend the Air Mobility Rodeo at McChord Sunday through July 24.

The Doolittle Raiders are special guests of Gen. Arthur Lichte, AMC commander, and are scheduled to attend Rodeo competitions, demonstrations and a town hall meeting Wednesday, as well as hold an autograph signing session Thursday for personnel with authorized access to McChord.

The Doolittle Raiders accomplished the first air bombing raid by the United States against a Japanese island during World War II using 16 B-25B bombers launched from the USS Hornet, a Naval aircraft carrier.

All 16 aircraft were lost and 11 crew members were either killed or captured. One of the bombers landed in Soviet territory where the crew was interned for more than one year.

“We are truly honored and humbled to have these heroic Airmen of our nation’s ‘Greatest Generation’ as our guests for this event,” said Maj. Gen. Brooks Bash, AMC director of operations and Rodeo leader.

The more than 2,500 mobility Airmen from around the globe participating in the biannual, multinational readiness competition compete in

core AMC capabilities of air drop, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation and cargo delivery operations. Rodeo also focuses on ground operations, including: security forces, combat control, aerial port, and maintenance.

More than 100 U.S. Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard teams will compete against each other, as well as against international air force and U.S. Marines Corps teams.

Rodeo will host seven foreign competitors and 17 observing countries including military competitors from Belgium, Israel, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Turkey

Other international military members observing the events include representatives from Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and Vietnam. NATO will also be sending a representative to observe.

A variety of more than 40 aircraft will be used during this year’s competition, including: C-5s, C-17s, C-130s, KC-10s, KC-135s, C-160s, C-21s, C-20s, C-32s, C-295 and T-1s.

“Air Mobility Command provides our country with unrivaled global reach – anyplace, anytime,” said General Bash. “Rodeo gives us an opportunity to share our tactics and techniques with each other and our friends from around the world.”

Daily overseas contingency operations demonstrate how AMC is firmly in the fight, as AMC accounts for approximately 70 percent of the



Maj. Gen. Brooks Bash, Air Mobility Command director of operations and Rodeo leader, greets members of the Israeli air force at McChord Monday.

air missions flown in the USCENT-COM Area of Responsibility. AMC Airmen fly into harm’s way, every day, to deliver troops, cargo and fuel with speed and precision. On a typical day, mobility forces fly about 900 sorties and move nearly 2,000 tons of cargo and more than 6,000 passengers. This operations tempo equates to a mobility aircraft departure every 90 seconds 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For more than 50 years, Rodeo has helped Air Force mobility professionals foster teamwork and hone

their skills, developing professional, disciplined Airmen. The previous Rodeo was held in 2007. This year introduces a new award – The Best Contingency Response Unit.

The overall winners of 2009 Rodeo will receive the “Best Air Mobility Team” award, the General William G. Moore Trophy. In 2007, the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif., took home the honors.

The competition wraps up with more than 100 awards, the top 16 to be presented July 24 during the closing ceremonies.



Crew chief program gives Airmen C-17 ‘ownership’

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Baxter, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is a stickler when it comes to the small details of his job.

From his time working maintenance on the B-1 Lancer at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., to working as an instructor at Airman Leadership School here, Sergeant Baxter developed a knack for scrutinizing even the smallest details of the job.

Leadership recognized that attention to detail and awarded Sergeant Baxter one of the 43 new dedicated crew chief positions. One DCC is assigned to each of McChord’s C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

“It’s an honor ... I’m excited,” Sergeant Baxter said.

The group of Airmen, civilians and Air Reserve Technicians named as DCCs were officially recognized at a July 9 ceremony at 62nd AMXS headquarters. The purpose of the DCC ceremony was to reaffirm, induct and recognize those top-level technicians who have been selected as C-17 DCCs, said Maj. Daniel Counts, 62nd AMXS operations officer.

Each DCC is required to maintain continuity and accuracy of all



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Turner

Maj. Daniel Counts, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron operations officer, back to camera, swears in 43 dedicated crew chiefs as part of an induction ceremony July 9 at the squadron headquarters. The group, comprised of active duty Airmen, civilians and Air Reserve Technicians, is responsible for maintaining continuity and accuracy of all of the assigned aircraft’s forms and status, plus staying abreast on scheduled maintenance and improving any overall cosmetic issues with the aircraft.

of his/her aircraft’s forms and status, plus stay abreast on scheduled maintenance and improve any overall cosmetic issues with the aircraft.

“It’s about personalizing aircraft maintenance,” said Master Sgt. Lee Mercer, 62nd AMXS, DCC program

manager. “The DCCs really have a chance to show pride in their aircraft.”

Part of showing off that pride is a personalized plaque with the name of the DCC, which will be mounted inside the aircraft while it is at Mc-

Chord. The plaque will be removed when the aircraft is flying missions overseas or to deployed locations.

But when the aircraft is at home, that’s when the DCCs take ownership and make sure anything that needs to get done on the aircraft is accomplished, Sergeant Mercer said.

“It’s about really scrutinizing the aircraft,” Sergeant Baxter said. “You have to take your time and look over it closely.”

However, that isn’t always an easy task, as a high operations tempo rarely allows McChord’s C-17s to stay home more than an average of 18 hours.

“This short dwell time gives the DCC little time to work delayed discrepancies, order parts and perform general up-keep of their aircraft,” Major Counts said. “This requires the DCC to be highly motivated to track where their jet is in the world, the status of their jet and when it is due home. Additionally, the DCC must coordinate with the expeditor to get time on their jet when it is back on station.”

Sergeant Baxter has seen that first-hand.

“You have to fight tooth and nail to get on the jet,” he said.

But none of that has impacted his drive or desire to continue to distinguish his aircraft and keep it operating at a high level.

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING



722-AADD

Arrive Alive!
*Don't Drink
and Drive!*

AADD’s mission is to provide free, safe, confidential rides HOME to McChord Personnel who have been drinking within a 30 mile radius of McChord AFB and make the responsible decision to let someone else do the driving.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Fleshman

Executive offload

Senior Airmen Toby Christensen, left, and Paul Hedges, both 8th Airlift Squadron loadmasters, connect a floodlight to a forklift during offloading operations of aerospace ground equipment July 6 at Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana. The Airmen are among more than 150 Airmen, sailors and Marines in Ghana and sailors aboard the USS Iwo Jima who formed a task force supporting President Barack Obama's visit July 10 and Saturday. The mission was conducted by 17th Air Force, also known as Air Forces Africa, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Seventeenth Air Force is the air component for U.S. Africa Command. The task force is provided aerial port and aircraft maintenance teams, along with forward communications, early warning and air domain safety and security elements to support the President's visit. In addition to supporting the visit, members are working with their Ghanaian counterparts to strengthen the partnership between the two nations.





Photo by Abner Guzman

Rodeo ready

Tech. Sgt. Seanjon Judkins, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flying crew chief, prepares a maintenance stand prior to inspecting a C-17 Globemaster III during a training mission at Moses Lake, Wash., July 8. The mission was part of Team McChord's ongoing preparation for Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2009, which officially begins with opening ceremonies 9 a.m. Sunday at the base of the control tower here.



Elmendorf Rodeo crew rounded up and ready to go

By

Airman 1st Class Christopher Gross
3rd Wing Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Elmendorf’s Rodeo team has been rounded up, and they’re ready to go.

About 35 Arctic Warriors will compete in Air Mobility Command’s Rodeo at McChord, Sunday through July 24.

Since 1962, the AMC Rodeo has been held to help improve the skills of air mobility professionals. The competition helps Airmen improve in five major areas: aeromedical evacuation, flight attendants, mobile command and control operations, aerial port operations and security forces.

Members from several Elmendorf squadrons competed to earn one of the 35 spots available for the AMC Rodeo team. The team will include of three pilots, one loadmaster, two joint airdrop inspectors, 11 maintenance members and four security forces members and five aerial port members. The rest of the representatives will provide personnel support and officiating.

Approximately 50 teams from 10 countries will participate in the rodeo including Brazil, Israel, Spain and Turkey. Representatives from 13 other countries, including Afghanistan, Morocco, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia, will observe the competition.

Elmendorf will use one of their C-17 Globemaster IIIs to compete. In all, nine different types of aircraft will be used during the competition. The grading criteria for each team are based on the specific type of aircraft.

One graded area is “time over target,” based on the aircraft arriving at a specified time to initiate the drop. Another is how accurate the drop is, as points will be deducted for every foot the object is away from the target. Other graded areas of the competition include assault landing, combat off load, air refueling and several more.



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Brown

Tech. Sgt. Justin Mulder, 517th Airlift Squadron, directs equipment onto a C-17 Globemaster III during training for the upcoming Air Mobility Command Rodeo competition.

Over the last several months, the team has been putting in a lot of hard work, said Maj. Blake Johnson, Elmendorf’s AMC rodeo team chief. The major spoke highly of his maintenance team members saying they seemed to have been practicing the hardest and putting forth the most effort.

He said his team has only two disadvantages – having a smaller unit and competing with an older aircraft, compared to other installations.

“We are one of the smaller C-17 units in the Air Force. PACAF (Pacific Air Forces), between Hickam and Elmendorf, has 16 C-17s and we’re competing against AMC bases with four active duty and four

reserve squadrons with fifty plus (aircraft),” said Major Johnson. “They have a lot more to pick from and to practice with.”

Although Major Johnson feels his team is at a slight disadvantage, he still said he believes they will do great because, after all, they are in it to win it.

“I think they’ll do well. They’ve been practicing hard, and it’s an opportunity for PACAF – specifically the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf – to show the bigger mobility units that we’re out here,” said Major Johnson. “We’re just as capable as they are, and we’re gonna prove it to them.”



McCHORD WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL RODEO TEAMS



Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger, 62nd Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant, explains the U.S. Air Force rank insignia to Turkish air force members.



Master Sgt. Jeff Barsaloux, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, marshals a German C-130 aircraft as international competitors arrive for Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2009.

Rodeo 2009 is a competition designed to challenge participants from around the globe in a wide array of air mobility forces core abilities.

But look deeper and it becomes clear that it's also a forum for military members from different countries to share ideas, as well as customs and courtesies of the various countries participating.

Those relationships between the international visitors and their McChord hosts started cultivating as soon as the international teams set foot on the flightline Monday.

Teams from countries such as Belgium, Germany, Malaysia, Israel, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Spain touched down and immediately got in contact with their McChord host squadrons. Throughout the days leading up to competition, whether conversation topics touch on common airdrop acronyms, family and children or international relations, one thing is clear: the host squadrons intend on making sure their international teams get an experience they won't soon forget.

Although a scheduling issue delayed pickup plans between Germany's Rodeo team and its 62nd Operations Support Squadron host, the teams hit it off great right off the bat, said Tech. Sgt. Tibor Pushkis, 62nd OSS.

"It's been educational ... definitely a learning experience," Sergeant Pushkis said of the time so far spent with the Germans, who arrived at Sea-Tac on July 10.

Airmen from the 62nd OSS even accompanied the Germans to a weekend festival in Seattle and took them to some outlet shopping stores.

"It's been an adventure. We've learned a lot about their customs and courtesies and how their military ranks are set up," Sergeant Pushkis said. "They're very friendly."

4th Airlift Squadron Airmen showed their hospitality by sit-

ting down to a meal with their Israeli team after helping them set up a tent at Rainier Ranch. The experience of working together has inspired some thought-provoking conversations on military lifestyle, pilot training experiences and general world views, said Capt. Stewart Fraser, 4th AS.

"Any time you get people from different countries together, there are always going to be stereotypes about each other," Captain Fraser said. "It's interesting learning from them how the world perceives (America)."

While making the guests feel welcome is a top priority, hosting duties also extend to helping the international squadrons prepare for the competition.

4th AS Airmen spent time Tuesday helping the Israelis plan a practice flight using the squadron's mission planning software.

"They were telling us what they wanted to accomplish, and we were plugging it into our system and helping them come up with a flight plan," Captain Fraser said.

But at the end of the day, it all comes down to the host squadrons preparing their international partners for the heat of battle and helping fan the competitive flame.

The team from Turkey and its host, the 7th AS, traded squadron patches the first day the teams met and were already hyped for the competition, said Capt. Matt Oliver, 7th AS.

"They wanted us to know that we were part of their team and that they really want to win," Captain Oliver said.

The Turkish airmen can expect a challenge from Germany, according to Sergeant Pushkis, who's quite optimistic of his teammates.

"I have a feeling (the Germans) are going to take most of the awards. That's the goal ... to sweep the competition," he said.



Members of the Turkish air force check in for Rodeo at the in-processing line here Monday.



Maj. Gen. Brooks Bash, Air Mobility Command director of operations and Rodeo leader, center, and Col. Kevin Kilb, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, far left, welcome the South Korean air force team to McChord Monday.



An Israeli air force C-130 aircraft touches down on the runway Monday.



Lt. Col. Rob Cook, 62nd Operations Support Squadron commander, center, and Capt. Stephen Migala, 62nd OSS, talk with members of the German air force team Monday.

MacDill Rodeo 2009 team ready to ride

By

Senior Airman Tania Reid
6th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The Air Mobility Command Rodeo 2009 team competition is just days away and Team MacDill’s preparation has been in full swing. With the “best of the best” aircrew, maintenance and security forces teams chosen, the trophy is within reach for the competition held at McChord Sunday through July 24.

Each team member selected has never competed in the event, but hopes to repeat the victory MacDill had in both 2000 and 2005.

“This will be the first rodeo that I, along with my team members, have participated in,” said Capt. Bryson Rintala, 6th Maintenance Group, maintenance team officer in charge. “Even though we have no experience on the team, there were many current 6th AMXS members that have competed in the past rodeo competitions.”

The teams trained in their respec-

tive fields’ everyday beginning May 2 and will continue until July 18 the day before they leave for the competition.

Maj. Christopher Bragdon, the rodeo team leader, said “Aircrews are preparing in air refueling and cargo loading. Maintainers are practicing for pre-flight inspections, basic post flight inspections, fuel servicing and daily operations.”

“The security forces team will practice for the combat tactics course, combat weapons course, combat endurance course and the combat marksman course,” he added.

The team’s strategies for this year were to choose the best representatives of each field. They were either hand selected by their supervisors or competed to be chosen.

“Our aircrew team began to fly exclusively on the rodeo aircraft in late May and the security forces team traveled to obstacles courses at other bases to train,” said Major Bragdon.

At the obstacle course, the security force members were put to the test. They were challenged in mul-



Photo by Senior Airman David Minor

MacDill Rodeo team members showcase their KC-135R Stratotanker for Rodeo competition Sunday through July 24. They have their sights set on bringing home the trophy once again.

tiple physical feats such as running with their gas mask on in their Battle Dress Uniforms, climbing up steep walls and more, said Master Sgt. Fitzroy Howe, 6th Security Forces team leader.

While the teams have gained all the training they require to participate, there is always fine tuning to add to

the team’s work effort.

“It is known that the best way to score well during the competition is for the team members to work hard, maintain a positive attitude and stay focused on completing the technical orders from beginning to end without skipping or alternating steps,” said Captain Rintala.



Mildenhall SFS prepares to carry its weight at Rodeo

By
Staff Sgt. Austin May
100th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

RAF MILDENHALL, England — “These guys are fit, they’ve got a great attitude and they’re ready to go.”

Lt. Col. Don Robertson, 100th Security Forces Squadron commander, beamed as he watched his squadron’s contenders for Air Mobility Command’s Rodeo 2009 finish an obstacle course at the British army’s Stanford Training Area July 10.

For two hours prior to the squadron commander’s arrival, the five Airmen ran the 18-station obstacle course again and again, working as a team and figuring out each person’s strengths and weaknesses.

Tech. Sgt. Allen Horne, the team’s leader, said the obstacle course was more fun than it was training, but after the grueling 10-week fitness regiment the team has endured, a little fun couldn’t hurt. Of course, one look at the muddy, sweating members of the team would eliminate any idea that the “fun” wasn’t at least slightly challenging.

“This lets us expose our bodies to a variety of different scenarios,” Sergeant Horne said. “It’s not just the standard running or lifting routine.”

Far from a stroll in the forest, the obstacle course had the cops sprinting, ditching, dodging, climbing, crawling, balancing, scaling and pushing themselves to all sorts

of demanding limits. Despite the muscle-shredding intensity with which they took on the course, however, they looked like a group of children on a playground, laughing and helping each other along with verbal and the occasional physical motivation.

On the obstacles which seemed to slow the group down, more time and energy was focused.

In no gentle terms, they pointed out each others’ mistakes while scrambling up and down a nearly 20-foot tall cargo net wall, wondering aloud which technique yielded the fastest results and who their weakest link was. The insistent Sergeant Horne set a goal and made each person on the team meet it: up and down in less than 20 seconds.

Pain was an ever-present factor accompanying the defenders during the training. But despite the unrelenting nature of the course, one thing was nowhere to be found – complaining.

Each of the cops said in their own words that the speed and stamina they displayed on the obstacle course would have been impossible when they first began training for the Rodeo.

Senior Airman Johnny Keeton said during the course of preparing for the competition, which is scheduled Sunday through July 24 at McChord, he’s decreased his run time by one minute, 20 seconds.

“I’m in the best shape of my life,” he said.

The Security Forces team will



Photo by Staff Sgt. Austin May

A group of 100th Security Forces Squadron Airmen swing over a muddy pit while training for the upcoming Rodeo competition.

focus on physical fitness, shooting and tactics during the competition. The Mildenhall team’s training isn’t over, as they plan to focus on the warfighting aspect of the competition on the days leading up to their departure for Washington, Sergeant Horne said.

The cops will be joined by aircrew and maintenance Airmen, each of whom have specialized competitions awaiting them at the biennial Rodeo.

Colonel Robertson said he has high hopes for not just the 100th SFS defenders, but everyone representing RAF Mildenhall.

“The great thing about being in the Air Force is that Airmen have a weird chromosome that makes them want to excel,” he said. “Mildenhall has an abundance of that chromosome.”



Team Dover Citizen Airmen prepare for Rodeo

By
2nd Lt. Joe Simms
22nd Air Force Public Affairs

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — Reservists from Dover are heading to McChord to participate in Air Mobility Command's Rodeo Sunday through July 24.

Citizen Airmen from the 512th Airlift Wing will work alongside active-duty Air Force members from Dover in competitions focusing on aircrew operations, aerial port, maintenance and security forces.

The AMC Rodeo began at Scott AFB, Ill., in 1962 to evaluate the proficiency of aircrews' aerial delivery procedures and the effectiveness of unit training programs. Through the years, the rodeo has evolved into a highly competitive event showcasing the best AMC has to offer while enhancing esprit de corps.

The biannual event, billed as an airlift and airdrop competition, brings together squadrons from the Air Force, AF Reserve and Air National



Photo by 2nd Lt. Joe Simms

Capt. Shayne Matthews and Maj. Rich Klarich, 512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del., perform air refueling while on a C-17 training mission July 9. Major Klarich will be evaluated on an air refueling operation during the Air Mobility Command Rodeo 2009 Sunday through July 24 at McChord.

Guard to demonstrate the full extent of airlift capabilities in the service.

“This team from Dover is unique, because active duty and reservists will be working side-by- side,” said Maj. Mark Chagaris, 512th Airlift Wing C-17 aircrew commander par-

ticipating in the AMC Rodeo. “This week will be a reflection on Team Dover and not individual wings.”

Majors Chagaris and Rich Klarich of the 326th Airlift Squadron, along with Tech. Sgt. Harry Pollock bring more than 25 years of C-17 experi-

ence to McChord and have known each other since 2001, when they were stationed at Charleston AFB, S.C.

The competition begins the moment the wheels of their C-17 Globemaster III touch down at McChord. Each participating unit is given an estimated time of arrival and is evaluated on their ability to arrive at a base at a specific time.

Major Chagaris and his team are then graded on their ability to land in a 500-foot area on the runway during day and night flight.

The crew will also be evaluated on their air refueling skills. Team Dover will have a predetermined time to hook up with the boom from a KC-135, disengage, and then meet at an exact contact point in the sky.

“The air refueling will be the most challenging part of the competition,” Major Klarich said. “We have to be 50 feet from the tanker at a specific time, close on the boom in one minute and maintain contact for 20 minutes without the assistance of autopilot.”



Name to note

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Brad Turner, NCOIC, 62nd Airlift Wing chapel operations, on his recent selection for promotion to master sergeant.

Employer panels

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts “employer panels” 8 a.m. to noon July 24 in Bldg. 851. Various agencies will present their corporate/government profiles, career opportunities and job vacancies. To register, or for more information, call 982-2695.

Madigan Annex TBI classes

Traumatic Brain Injuries Program educational series classes for educators and healthcare providers are offered Thursdays at the Madigan annex on Fort Lewis. For more information, call the TBI program education specialist administrator, Bronwyn Pughe, at 968-3193.

Mandatory pre-separation counseling

Military servicemembers are required to complete the pre-separation counseling checklist at least 90 days prior to military discharge. Recommended attendance of the pre-separation class is within 12 months for those separating from service and within 24 months for those retiring. The class is offered bi-weekly on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 551. Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695 for more information or to register.

New Barnes and housing gate hours

The Barnes gate is now open 5:30




a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. The Woodbrook housing gate is open 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call the 62nd Security Forces Squadron at 982-5100.

Transition Assistance Program employment workshop


A TAP employment assistance workshop, provided by the Defense Department, the Labor Department, and the Veterans Administration is offered bi-weekly from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 551. Topics include individual transition plans, resume development, effective job search, interviews, networking, and more. The workshop is facilitated by a trained Labor Department instructor experienced with the military transition and the current employment environment. Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695 for more information or to register.

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts

The Defense Department Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve Service members worldwide offer eligible military spouses up to \$6,000 of financial assistance to help pay for licenses, certifications and education in high growth, high demand portable career fields. For more information, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx> and click on the link “Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts” at the bottom of the Web page under “Military Programs.”







The McChord Chaplain Corps
Presents



Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light
Vacation Bible School

Chapel Support Center
746 Col Joe Jackson Blvd, McChord Air Force Base
3-7 August 2009 from 9:00am to 12:00pm
For Children Entering Pre-School Though 5th Grade
Register Now!
For More Information Call (253) 982-5556





McChord Chaplain Corps
Faith & Worship
Programs

For more information on Chapel services and programs, please call 982-5556.
To contact Duty Chaplain after duty hours, contact the Command Post at 982-2635.

CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: All Catholic services are in chapel two. Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746 Monday: Noon. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746	Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation: 1st,2nd & 3rd Wednesday of the month: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746 6:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746 PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180 9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746 11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746	JEWISH SERVICES: Friday: 6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the month: Ft. Lewis, Chapel 5, Bldg. T-2270 OTHER PROGRAMS: The following Chapel programs take place at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746. Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 6 p.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Bible Study; 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday of the month Wednesday: 11 a.m. Adult Bible Study
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Altus A-TEAM shoots for ‘A’ rating at Rodeo

By
Kevin Chandler
97th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — Members of the 97th Maintenance Directorate, or A-TEAM, are accustomed to giving great attention to the smallest details. If they ignore those fine points, catastrophes can easily occur. This attention to detail has been put to greater use recently as the maintainers prepare for Air Mobility Command’s Rodeo 2009 Sunday through July 24 at McChord.

Larry Melton, the KC-135 rodeo team chief, has his crew working diligently to prepare his aircraft for the flying competitions and the inspections teams endure during rodeo. Mr. Melton is relying on his team’s expertise as well as his experience from participating in two previous rodeo competitions to excel during this year’s event.

The C-17 rodeo team is also hard at work under the supervision of Theado Robertson. He said the team

is currently refurbishing an aircraft to meet manufacturer’s specifications. This means a 17-year old aircraft will be restored to its “fresh off the assembly line” condition. Overhauling an aircraft to this degree requires a lot of effort.

The KC-135 maintainers are also busy completing detailed preparations for their 46 year old aircraft, such as painting, replacing old nuts and bolts, installing new carpet and maintaining a fully serviceable aircraft. “The little things add up, so we are paying a lot of attention to detail,” said Mr. Melton. “This is a good team and they are working hard to make sure the aircraft is technically compliant and FOD-free.”

Both team chiefs evaluated several reports to choose the most suitable aircraft for rodeo. While they select the aircraft, crew members volunteer to be a part of the rodeo team. Each maintenance team consists of a work leader, three crew chiefs and technicians from avionics, hydraulics, jet engines and an electrician.

In addition to aircraft maintenance

and restoration, the teams are also training on all processes associated with their jobs, such as marshalling aircraft, preflight inspections, home station checks, fuel servicing and launch and recovery actions coupled with daily observations.

Members of the rodeo teams are particularly busy due to the age of the aircraft they will be using during the competitions. Altus will be using C-17s that are 15 to 20 years old while many other bases will use aircraft that are two years old or less. Mr. Robertson does not see this as an obstacle, but rather as an opportunity to show the judges the capabilities of Altus maintainers.

“We have legacy aircraft,” he explained. “Other bases will be taking 2006 or 2007 aircraft, but we don’t have that option. Bringing back a 1992 model that has been out in the fleet shows more effort than flying one straight off the assembly line.”

The Altus team could also enjoy other advantages.

“Active duty teams have people rotating in and out constantly,” Mr.

Melton said, “while we have low turnover and plenty of experience.

“Rodeo rules do limit the amount of veterans on a team to 50 percent, but we will have no problem filling that because we have so much experience here,” he continued.

Experience will be necessary to do well at rodeo. According to Mr. Melton, the Altus aircrew and maintainers will be evaluated from the moment the aircraft touches down at McChord until the event is complete. “Our long hours really start when we get to rodeo,” said Mr. Melton.

While the team will be busy keeping the aircraft in pristine condition, Mr. Melton says he has never encountered a major mechanical crisis in his two previous competitions.

“One year there was a seal that was inadvertently cut and had to be replaced,” he explained. “One of our competitors actually had a replacement seal and gave it to us. That is one of the characteristics of rodeo, everyone is in competition with each other but everyone helps each other out as well.”

